

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

JOURNAL MEMORANDUM

Date March 29, 1924 Office CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE: VIO. SECT. 47, U.S.C.C.
FRANCIS CURRY and WESLEY SHAY ATTEMPTED TO INTIMIDATE
OF JOLIET, ILL. GOVERNMENT WITNESS -
P.J.BURGESS

Origin of Case CHICAGO BUR. OFFICE -Letter from U.S. Date Mar. 11, 1924
Atty. Edwin A. Olson

Local Office No. 68297 Bureau No. 62-8255 Other Office No. _____

Assigned to Special Agent J. D. ROONEY Date Mar. 12, 1924

Reassigned to Special Agent _____ Date _____

Reassigned to Special Agent _____ Date _____

STATUS OF CASE

Referred to U. S. Attorney (Asst.) WAUGH Date Mar. 12, 1924

U. S. Comm. Warrants Issued _____ Date _____
(Name of commissioner.)

Preliminary Hearing _____ Date _____

Continued Hearings _____ Date _____

Presented to Grand Jury _____ Date Mar. 18, 1924

Indictment Returned _____ Date _____

Arraignment and Plea _____ Date _____

Set for Trial _____ Date _____
(Name of judge, court, and place.)

Court Verdict _____ Date _____

Remarks: CONTINUED.

NOTE.—This form is to be filled in by typewriter or ink.

7-1256

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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62-8255

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO OFFICE.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT: Chicago, Ill.	DATE WHEN MADE: Mar. 29, 1924	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Mar. 13-28, 1924	REPORT MADE BY: J. D. ROONEY
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE: FRANCIS CURRY and WESLEY SHAY OF JOLIET, ILL.		VIO. SECT. 47, U.S.C.C. ATTEMPTED TO INTIMIDATE GOVERNMENT WITNESS - P.J. BURGESS	
FACTS DEVELOPED: AT JOLIET, ILLINOIS:			
<p>Assistant United States Attorney, WAUGH, at Chicago addressed a letter to this Bureau, complaining in substance that P. J. BURGESS, 401 West Marion St., Joliet, Illinois, had, on March 7th 1924, been slugged by five men, who were in an automobile in the City of Joliet. BURGESS recognized FRANCIS CURRY and WESLEY SHAY.</p> <p>Agent, upon receiving this information, proceeded to Joliet, Illinois, where he interviewed P. J. BURGESS, who stated that he is employed as a chauffeur for MR. WOODRUFF, President of the First National Bank of Joliet; that on March 7th, about 6:00 P.M., he was driving MR. WOODRUFF'S Cadillac Coupe and when he got in front of MR. WOODRUFF'S home, and attempted to turn into the driveway, an ESSEX COACH car pulled up alongside of his car, and forced his car to the curb; that while this was being done, one WESLEY SHAY, a saloon-keeper of Joliet jumped out of the Essex Car which had cut his car off, and SHAY opened the right hand door of his (Burgess) car, and jumped into the seat alongside of him. SHAY immediately began to slug him, and BURGESS observed that the four other men in the Essex car were scrambling out of the car, and as he noticed this he immed-</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>James P. Rooney</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES APR 9 1924 62-8255-1 RECORDED AND INDEXED. APR 6 1924		
REFERENCE:	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Washington-2, Chicago-2, U.S. Atty. Chgo.-1		
JDR:FN		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION APR 3 1924 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: HOOVER FILE DIVISION	

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Mar. 13-28, 1924.

lately threw the car into gear, and stepped on the gas, leaving the occupants of the Essex Car behind; that during this time he was being slugged by WESLEY SHAY, who said to him "Stop this car or It will kill you." SHAY placed his hand on his hip pocket in an attempt to draw a gun, and when BURGESS saw him do this, he stopped the car and opened the side door and wrested himself from SHAY'S hold, running leaving his car behind and at the mercy of SHAY. That while he was running away, he observed FRANCIS CURRY, a saloon-keeper of Joliet, and defendant in a Government liquor case at Chicago, running after him, and CURRY was making every effort to try and catch him - CURRY hollered "Stop, darn you, or I'll shoot you" and as CURRY said this, he reached for his hip pocket in an attempt to draw a gun, but BURGESS was successful in escaping. That he (Burgess) in January 1924, while working as an investigator for the WILL COUNTY LAW & ORDER LEAGUE at JOLIET, collected evidence of sales of intoxicating liquor against four saloon-keepers in Joliet, but did not get evidence at that time against Curry, or Shay, but against two friends of theirs namely: CHARLES SPEARS, and WILLIAM BIECH; that the WILL COUNTY LAW & ORDER LEAGUE did collect evidence against CURRY and SHAY, and he is inclined to believe that this assault by SHAY and CURRY is the outcome of evidence collected in Joliet against a clique of saloon-keepers. That while he was being assaulted by SHAY, there was no mention made by SHAY of his (BURGESS) being a Government witness, or an operative for the WILL COUNTY LAW & ORDER LEAGUE.

Agent, together with Special Agent CHETLAIN of the Chicago Bureau Office, went to the vicinity of SHAY'S saloon, located at 617 Cass Street, Joliet, Illinois, and Agents, together with BURGESS, entered the saloon, and inquired for WESLEY SHAY. MARTY HENDERSON, an ex-puglist was tending bar, and informed Agents that SHAY had been in the saloon earlier in the day, but did not know just then where he could be located.

As Agents were leaving the saloon, Burgess observed WESLEY SHAY walking down Cass Street, towards the saloon. Agent stopped SHAY, and confronted him with BURGESS and asked SHAY if he knew BURGESS. SHAY said "Yes, I have known him for a number of years." Agent inquired if he knew what BURGESS' employment was at the present time, and SHAY said "Yes, that Burgess was a fireman for the E. J. & M. R.R." Agent asked SHAY if he had seen BURGESS Friday night March 7th at about 6:00 o'clock, and SHAY said "No, I did not." Agent said "Is it not a fact that on Friday night March 7th, about 6:00 o'clock, you jumped out of an Essex Car, containing four or five other men, and entered Burgess Cadillac Car and assaulted Burgess, as a result of which Burgess now carries that black eye?" SHAY said "It is not a fact and, furthermore, what would be the use of my slugging BURGESS, he never did anything to me, and he is not a Government witness against me, nor my brother in any case now pending before the courts in Chicago?"

Agents then left SHAY and proceeded to the Essex Automobile Sales Agency, where it was ascertained that FRANCIS CURRY and WESLEY SHAY were not possessors of an Essex Automobile. It did develop though that a friend of CURRY'S, by the name of BILL TIGHE of 1001 North Chicago Ave., Joliet, is the owner of an Essex Coach equipped with McComb tires, and bumpers, front and rear. BURGESS stated that it was not TIGHE'S car that was used by the sluggers.

Agents located a witness by the name of HAROLD JOHNSTON, employed as a mechanic in A. C. JOHNSON'S GARAGE, 4th & Eastern Sts., Joliet, who was an eye witness to the assault on BURGESS. Agents interviewed HAROLD JOHNSTON, and he stated that on Friday night, March 7th at about 6:00 O'clock, he was at the intersection of Richards & Lincoln Sts., when he observed an Essex Coach out off a Cadillac coupe; that a man jumped out of the

Essex Car and jumped into the Cadillac, and started to assault the driver of the Cadillac; that the driver of the Cadillac car threw the car into gear, and ran the car away from the Essex car; that later he observed the driver of the Cadillac car leave the Cadillac from the left hand side, and run away from the scene of assault; that he also observed another man leave the Essex car and run after the driver of the Cadillac car, and that this man who was running after the driver of the Cadillac, reached around to his hip pocket and hollered "Stop, or I'll shoot you" but he did not draw a gun. MR. JOHN-STON stated that the man who did the assaulting in the Cadillac car was a short fellow about 5' 6" wearing a gray over-coat and a light cap; that this fellow's cap was lost in the scuffle; that the second man who left the Essex car was a rather tall fellow about 5 ft. 10 in., wearing a cap and a dark blue overcoat; that the Essex car also contained three other men, who did not get out of the car; that after the driver of the Cadillac car made his get-away, the two men who assisted in the assault jumped into the Essex Car and drove away in great haste; that he was unable to obtain the license number of the Essex car, because the license plates, and the car itself were greatly smeared with mud; that he then got into the Cadillac Car and drove it into the garage of MR. WOODRUFF, its owner; that he does not know the names of the two men that slugged BURGESS, but it is possible that if he faced them he would again recognize them.

MISS DOROTHY BERGER, 310 Richard St., a girl of 11 years, stated that she saw MR. WOODRUFF'S chauffeur assaulted in front of MR. WOODRUFF'S home Friday night March 7th. That two men left an Essex closed car, and one of the men jumped into the Cadillac Car and began assaulting the chauffeur; that finally the chauffeur jumped out of the Cadillac car, and ran. As he was running, one of the men who wore a blue over-coat ran after

the chauffeur and hollered "Stop, or I'll shoot you;" that the man who entered the Cadillac car, and did the assaulting was a short man (young) who wore a gray over-coat and a light cap; that the man who ran after the chauffeur wore a blue over-coat and a light cap and was quite tall and thin. That she did not get the license number of the ^{Essex} car, because it was too much smeared with mud; and the car was driven away at a high rate of speed, and that she did not know who the two men were who had participated in the assault; but it is possible that were she confronted with them she could probably identify them. b3

On March 18th [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] appeared before the Federal Grand Jury, at Chicago, and gave testimony in this case.

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THESE 6 PAGES ARE THE ONLY ONES CONTAINED IN THIS FILE